

CLAIMS:

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We claim:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 determining a first semantic sub-space within a semantic
3 space in response to an input term; and
4 displaying at least one document positioned with said first
5 semantic sub-space if any documents are contained therein.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if
2 said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an
3 expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space
4 larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining
5 repeated until at least one document is contained therein.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein determining
2 said expanded semantic sub-space includes increasing a radius of
3 semantic distance about the meaning corresponding to the input
4 term.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if no
2 documents are contained in said first semantic sub-space then no
3 documents are displayed.
- 1 5. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if
2 said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an
3 expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space
4 larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining

5 repeated until the one of the following occurs: at least one
6 document is contained in the expanded semantic sub-space and the
7 expanded semantic sub-space reaches a given threshold.

1 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said
2 documents are advertisements.

1 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said
2 advertisements are Internet banner ads.

1 8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first
2 semantic sub-space is redefined based upon further inputs of the
3 particular meaning of said input term if said input term has more
4 than one meaning in said semantic space.

1 9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 indexing documents within said semantic space.

1 10. A method according to claim 7 wherein banner ads
2 may be sold to an advertiser by an information portal based upon
3 is desired position within semantic space.

1 11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said banner
2 ads are displayed to a user of said information portal, said user
3 providing the input term.

1 12. A method comprising:

2 determining the semantic distance and relationship between a
3 purchased synset in a semantic space and an input term, said

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4 input triggering the retrieval of an ad purchased for a semantic
5 sub-space about said semantic space;

6 determining the price of said retrieved ad based upon said
7 determined distance and relationship.

1 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the price
2 of the retrieved ad is determined to be inversely
3 proportional to the determined semantic distance.

1 14. A method comprising:
2 inputting at least one term to a semantic engine;
3 determining a first semantic sub-space within a
4 semantic space in response to an input term; and
5 retrieving all words and meanings contained within said
6 semantic sub-space.

1 15. A method according to claim 14 further comprising:
2 outputting said retrieved words and meanings.

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